REFLECTIONS upon the French Kings Declaration,

For the Reſtauration of the Late King *JAMES*, to the Kingdom of *England*

By JOHN TUTCHIN.

HOW far the Court of *France* has influenced this of *England* ſince the Reſtauration of *Charles* II. is too well known, and the Effects thereof too apparent at this time, the whole management of Affairs here being carried on by a *French* Intereſt during the late Reigns, had certainly ere this time brought us to pay homage to the Crown of *France*, had not the Providence of God prevented it by the late glorious Revolution. Without doubt King *Lewis* is deeply concern'd at the preſent Condition of the *Engliſh* Nation, and the Misfortunes of its Abdicated King, whom he deſigned to trick out of his Dominions; Therefore, like a reſolute Hero, he is reſolved to make the beſt of a bad Market, and ſince he is defeated in his Intrigues, he is reſolved to rally again and improve every opportunity for the advancement of his Intereſt. In perſuance of which he has diſembarqued ſome of his Troops at two ſeveral times on *Ireland*, to aſſiſt the late King to maintain a Rebellion againſt Their preſent Majeſties, and having provided a third Embarquement to make a Deſcent either upon *England* or *Ireland*, he has publiſhed an inſinuating Declaration dated at *Verſailles* the 14th of this Inſtant *May*, which he has cauſed to be printed in the *Engliſh* Tongue, thereby to debauch our Army and People at their firſt Landing, which Declaration is the Subject of theſe Reflections.

He begins his Declaration with a Formal Harangue *of the good Affection and Intention he bears the* Engliſh *Nation, &c.* His love to *England* we do not queſtion, certainly believing he loves it ſo well, that he would have made it his own ere this time, if it had lay'n in his power; and his ſincere Intentions we doubt not of, when we remember how ſincerely he added *Lorrain* and other Countries to his Dominions. And when we conſider that the reſtleſs Endeavor of this Tyrant has ever been the Agrandiſement of his own Power, and the Enlargement of his Territories, we cannot but imagin that he will ſtretch his Empire to the utmoſt Limits of theſe fertile Kingdoms, if ever he ſhould have the power, and God, for our ſins, ſhould ſuffer us to be ſuch Cowards as to be overcome by him.

And he farther Inſinuates, *That he is not at all deſirous to bring or continue on the* Engliſh *Nation the Calamities of War, &c.* I ſuppoſe he writes this Declaration only for the *Jacobites* of the Kingdom, I hope he is perſuaded that the other Party are men of more ſenſe, than to be miſled by ſo ſpecious a Wheadle; The Inhabitants upon the *Rhine*, of *Savoy*, *Piedmont*, the *Vaudois*, and many others can teſtifie how much he deſires the Peace and Tranquility of Proteſtants; and his own Subjects can tell us how far we are to believe his Word or Declaration, tho' it were as irrevocable as the Edict of *Nantz*.

Next he goes on to declare, *That in Caſe the Subjects of* Great Britain *will return to their Allegiance, and reſtore the late King* James *to his Throne before or at the 24th of* June *next, That he will cauſe to ceaſe all hoſtile Actions; That he will reſtore all the Merchants Ships and Effects taken ſince the Rupture; And pay all the Taxes we have been at in 18 months at three payments.*

In the firſt place, *As to the Reſtauration of the late King* James. This is a bitter Pill indeed, and will hardly be ſwallowed by the *Engliſh* Nation without great Reluctancy; the late King was very bad before he abdicated the Government, and we ſuppoſe he is not much bettered by the Converſation he has had with King *Lewis*: But his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty would have acted more like a Politician, to have given the People of *England* a longer time to have reſtor'd their Monarch, than the 24th of next Month; for I confidently preſume it will not be in the power of *Lewis* himſelf, together with the aſſiſtance of the dear Joys of *Teagueland* in conjunction with his forward Villains in *Lancaſhire*, and other Parts, to accompliſh this mighty Work ſo ſoon. Yet, tho' the Reſtauration of the late King be the pretence, we very well know that he is but the Tool by which King *Lewis* works his own Intereſt. He is but the Head of his Army, and ſuch a Head too as is placed upon the top of a Fiddle, only to make a Shew, and nothing at all concern'd in the Muſick. Indeed the *French* King has lent him an Army of his Men in *Ireland*, but as a Gratification of ſo ſingular a Kindneſs, he has the whole ſtrength of the Kingdom put into his hands as Cautionary Towns. And the Inſolencies of the *French* are already ſo great, that the miſerable *Iriſh* Papiſts themſelves would willingly enjoy an opportunity to revolt from their Government. And ſhould we be as fooliſh as the *French* King perſuades us to be, and reſtore the abdicated King again, ſhould we not take a Serpent into our Boſoms, that would certainly ſting us to death? We are very well acquainted with the Nature of that Man, and the Mercy and Favour he ſhews a conquer'd Enemy; a *Specimen* of which he gave in the *Weſt*, where he ingloriouſly murder'd, in cold Blood, ſo many hundreds of the Duke of *Monmouth*'s Men, nor can we expect any better uſage upon his Return, without doubt he has now learnt an effectual way how to Dragoon us into wooden Shoes, and Bread and Water. But, as I hinted before, the Queſtion is not about the Reſtauration of the late King, but the eſtabliſhing of the *French* King in theſe Dominions, and who, but one as void of Senſe as a *Jacobite*, can think any otherwiſe? And if we come under a *French* Power, what can we expect but the Devaſtation, Hoſtility and Bloodſhed that thoſe Countries have ſuffered that have had the misfortune to be added to the *French* King's Dominions? It is a good old *French* Rule, *Avez le François pour ton amy, non pas pour ton voiſin.* The *French* may make good Friends, but never good Neighbours. So that it is no ſmall Benefit to our Land, that it is ſurrounded with the Ocean, and fortified with Rocks from the Incurſions of ſo encroaching an Enemy. But before we admit of the *French* King's Propoſals in this Caſe, we muſt not only lay aſide all regard to preſent Intereſt, as well as the future ſafety of Poſterity; but we muſt alſo ſhake off all the Principles of Honour, Juſtice, Loyalty, and Humanity: For we cannot reſtore the late King, without depoſing King *WILLIAM*. And how barbarous an Act would this ſeem, not only to Foreign Nations, but to Poſterity alſo? It is certainly inconſiſtent with the Native Bravery of the People of this Kingdom, to depoſe a Prince that has paſſed the devouring Billows of the wild Ocean, and ventur'd his Perſon and Troops to redeem us from Slavery of Mind and Body. Let not ſuch horrid Ingratitude be imagined to lurk in the Breaſt of any one that bears the honourable Name of an *Engliſhman*! And yet we ſee that ſome are weary of their Redeemer, and, like the diſcontented *Iſraelites*, murmur at their *Moſes*, for the Bread and Water of Arbitrary Power, and Abſolute Government, and ſuch too, whom his preſent Majeſty of the abundance of his mercy, has ſkreen'd from the Juſtice of the Law, and maintain'd by his Bounty.

In the next place he endeavours by fair Promiſes to perſuade us to take the abdicated King again, and tells us, *That he will reſtore us our Ships and Effects, and Reimburſe the Charge of the War.* Here he promiſes the *Engliſh* Subjects what he cannot perform without prejudice to his own; For moſt of the *Engliſh* Ships taken ſince the Rupture, were ſeized by the *French* Privateers, and not one Moyety of the Effects at his diſpoſe. Beſides, it is impoſſible for him to reſtore the Effects as he found them, moſt of the Tobacco being ſhipped off for *Ireland*. And if our Merchants truſt to his Accompt of the Sale of their Goods, I am afraid their Factor will take ſo much *per Cent.* for his Commiſſion, that the poor Merchants will make but a loſing Voyage of it; and ſo powerful a Factor as he is not to be ſued for an Account at any one's pleaſure. But I muſt needs acknowledg his kindneſs in the promiſe of reimburſing our Expence in the War, and yet he is partly obliged to it, being the principal Cauſe thereof, therefore I do not like his Payment at three ſeveral times.

This makes me think, that if we ſhould comply with his Propoſals, that he would ſerve us as our cheating Traders do here, get a Letter of Licence for time to pay their Debts, when their only deſign is to gain time to get their Effects into their hands, and then take up their Quarters in *White-Fryars*, or the *King's-Bench*; were I to Treat with the *French* King upon this Head, (knowing him to be a Shuffling Dealer,) I ſhould deſire, that *Dunkirk*, *Calais*, *Breſt*, *Rochfort*, *Thoulon*, and *Sherrant*, might in the firſt place be put into our Hands, as Cautionary Towns, and as Security for his performance of Articles, and payment of our Mony; for who can Imagine, that the *French* Tyrant can ever be able to make ſatisfaction

UMI

to the *Engliſh* Nation for ſo many Millions Expence in this War, who was forc'd the firſt Summer after the Rupture to melt down his plate to pay his Army, and the Lead of his his Churches to make Bullets.

But to conclude all, he threatens upon our Non-compliance with his Propoſals, to bring the Miſery and Calamity of War upon us, the caſe is much the ſame, we are ſure if we do comply, or no, if ever we come under his Juriſdiction, to ſuffer all the Calamities of War poſſible to be felt by a Miſerable People, from a Conquering Enemy. Thoſe amongſt us, that have either read of, or ſeen thoſe Countrys that have unfortunately been the Seat of the *French* War, are throughly convinc'd of what we muſt expect from a *French* Army, ſhould it get poſſeſſion of any part of this Kingdom; how many goodly Towns and Villages have the *French* Troops laid waſte upon the *Rhine*, where the fruitful Lands lie Untill'd, and the Graſs grows where the Towns formerly ſtood; I could give a Thouſand Inſtances of the *French* Barbarity, where they have had the Fortune to Conquer. A Volume might be fill'd with their Cruelties in the *Low Countries*, when our Nation ſuffer'd them to make a deſcent upon the *States General* of the *United Provinces* in the Year 1673, ſome of which I ſhall Tranſcribe in a Letter written from *Utrecht*, 11th of *January*, 1673.

VVorthy Friend,

I *Cannot, out of the abundance of my heart, forbear to ſend theſe Lines unto you, containing an Account of the Cruelties and Murders committed by the* French *in that laſt Encounter at* Boodegrave *and* Swammerdam, *according as I have had it from the mouths of the* French, *and confirmed by many of them, yea, ſome of their Officers, who have been in the* Turkiſh *War, do teſtifie that they never ſaw or heard of ſuch Cruelties, as for Inſtance in two Gentlewomen, who were firſt ſtript naked by the Soldiers, and then by many of them deflowred; which a* French *Officer ſeeing reſcu'd them, and threw his Cloak, with what other Covering he could find, over their naked Bodies. This Officer being commanded to his poſt, was forc'd to leave theſe Ladies, whom he recommended to another: But this ſhameleſs Villain preſently raviſh'd them again, and let them in the like manner be abuſed by the Soldiers, who having ſatiated their filthy Luſt with them, thruſt the Rammers of their Guns into their Bodies, and ſo torn them up, and moſt miſerably murder'd them. The Gentleman that declares he ſaw theſe things, you know very well, as alſo him who firſt ſaved and cover'd them, but afterwards, to his great grief, beheld them lying dead on the way.*

The ſame perſon relates, that hearing a dreadful ſcreeching in a certain houſe, he went in, and found there a young Gentlewoman, who was violated by ſome Soldiers; whereupon he took his piſtol, intending to have ſhot one of thoſe Villains through the head, but it miſſing fire, he ſtruck it in pieces on one of their heads.

He ſaid alſo, that in the ſame Chamber lay two old people abed, being Man and Wife, above 80 years old, the Father and Mother of this young Gentlewoman, who, embracing each the other in their arms, lay ſhaking and trembling for fear of being murdered.

Theſe ſhould with Houſe and all, have been burnt, had not he ſaved them: For in like manner they moſt lamentably murdered a Woman, together with her four Children, who, for Fear and Diſtreſs, flew about her, and crept under her Cloaths to ſave themſelves.

Amongſt thoſe that fled into the Church, ſome they moſt miſerably raviſht, afterwards hung them up by the hair, and ſhot them to death.

Others, they cut off their Breaſts, and then burned them.

Yea, the French *themſelves declare, that they ſaw ſeveral young Maids run into the Fire themſelves, to eſcape the Tyranous Cruelty of thoſe Bloodhounds.*

The Gentleman that ſays he ſaw theſe things, lies ſick abed, meerly, as he ſaith, from alteration at the ſight of theſe dreadful Maſſacres and Abuſes which he was forced to behold acted upon the poor people.

A certain Officer (who lies here on the New Graft *declares, that in one houſe were ſeven perſons whom he endeavoured to protect, but being commanded to look after h poſt, was forced to leave them, and coming again fou them all murder'd: And 'tis not to be expreſſed what w out of their own mouths, hear daily of their Cruelty.*

But ſome of the Officers were more compaſſionate, wh have brought ſeveral Children with them hither, whom they ſay, they ſnatch'd out of the Fire; of which my Lord Peterſon *hath took one, a Girl of Seven Tear Old, to himſelf, whoſe parents are alſo burnt; and 'ti evident 'tis Born of good Reformed parents, for of her ſelf ſhe will Mornings and Evenings fall on her Knees and ſay all ſorts of Prayers, and can alſo ſay the* Belief *and* Ten Commandments. *A certain* Capuchin *Monk ſaid to the Duke of* Luxemburgh, *Will you give tha Soul to the Devil, which we have fetch'd out of the Fire It ought not to be. Nevertheleſs my Lord keeps th Child. They have alſo brought with them another prett Lad, about whom has been no ſmall difference amongſ them, becauſe ſome of them out of their Cruelty woul ſtill Burn him, or daſh him againſt the Wall; but the have carried him upwards along with them, ſo can Writ no more about him.*

Theſe are but ſome Samples of their Barbarous Cruelty, for ſhould I relate all thoſe Filthineſſes and Murde whereof they boaſt, I ſhould too far exceed the Limits o a Letter.

Your Affectionate Friend, *N. N.*

This and much more muſt we expect, if ever a *French* Army ſhould land upon us: But I hope the Commemoration of our mighty Conqueſts in *France* under *Edward* III. where we ſlew in the Battel o *Creſſy* 11 great princes, above 1000 Barons and Knights, and above 30 thouſand of the Commons o *France*, not one Man of Honour or Note being ſla on our ſide.

And many other Conqueſts I could mention, hope (I ſay) the thoughts of this will ſo animat all that have but the leaſt ſpark of true *Engliſh* Valo left, that we ſhall never be maſter'd by thoſe tha were the Slaves of our Forefathers, but ſhall bravely ſtand up in the defence of our natural Rights, our Religion and Liberties, againſt all Oppoſers. In doing of which, we may expect the bleſſing of the Almighty, who, with one gentle touch of his Almighty Hand, can diſperſe all our Enemies were they never ſo many.

Advertiſements.

☞ *The Priviledges of the Citizens of* London, *contained in the Charters granted them by ſeveral Kings of this Realm, and confirmed by ſundry Parliaments. Formerly publiſhed for general Information, upon the occaſion of the* Quo Warranto *brought againſt the ſaid City, and now Re-printed, upon the account of Reverſing that Judgment, and Reſtoring the Charter, with all its ancient Rights and Priviledges, under our Gracious Sovereign Lord and Lady King* VVilliam *and Queen* Mary. *Printed for* Langley Curtiſs.

☞ *Theſe are to give Notice to all Perſons, for the Benefit of the Publick, That Mr.* Elmy, *Profeſſor of Phyſick, and Operator, of known Integrity, and above 25 Years practice, Liveth at the* Blue Ball *in* Whale-Bone Court, *at the Lower End of* Bartholomew-lane *by the* Royal Exchange, *who moſt ſafely and expeditiouſly Cures* Deafneſs *and* Noiſe in the Ears *in any of what Age ſoever, (if Curable) and at firſt Sight, by Inſpection, Reſolves the Patient if ſo or not, as moſt Eminent Perſons of Quality in this City can Teſtifie.*

London Printed, for *Langley Curtiſs* at the Sign of Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey's Head* near *Fleet-Bridge*. 1690.